

potassium oxalate, potassium hydroxide, potassium carbonate, potassium nitrate, and potassium bicarbonate.

20. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is prepared by multi-step impregnation when K₂MoO₄, MoO₃ or (NH₄)₆Mo₇O₂₄ plus a potassium salt is employed as precursor of the active component.

21. (Original) Process according to claim 20, wherein impregnation is performed by using potassium salts selected from the group consisting of potassium acetate, potassium oxalate, potassium hydroxide, potassium carbonate, potassium nitrate, and potassium bicarbonate, and oxides or sulfides selected from the group consisting of molybdenum, iron, cobalt, nickel, lanthanum, cerium and manganese.

22.-24. (Cancelled)

claim 1

25. (Previously Presented) Process of ~~claim 6~~, which is carried out in a fixed catalyst bed arrangement or in a fluidized bed to aid in reactor temperature control of an exothermic reaction.

26. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein a series of fixed catalyst beds or a reactor comprising one or multiple (n = 1 – 10) reaction zones is used, in which one or more of the reactants can be fed between the reaction zones.

27. (Original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst may be arranged in fixed beds with intermediate gas injection or multitubular reactors for a better temperature control.

28. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 26, wherein hydrogen, hydrogen sulfide, synthesis gas, and/or carbon oxides are fed to the mixture between the reaction zones.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the unreacted gas is directed over a catalyst bed for the conversion of by-products before being recycled to the feed gas stream.

31. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 30, wherein the by-products are carbonyl sulfide, carbon disulfide, and/or dimethylsulfide.